## REPORT SECRETARY OF WAR.

bring into market the mineral treasures of the country.

The remounting of the second regiment of dragoons will enlarge the very best force for military service in the prairies—an indispensable duty now devolving on the government. As long as a foreign territory makes so marked an encroachment into the natural boundary of our southwestern frontier, Fort Jesup, or a post in the rear of it upon the Sabine, must remain one of the most important military positions on any of our frontiers. In addition to the propriety of having a large force stationed there, it was increased by the necessary detention of the rifle regiment preparatory to its being reconverted into the second regiment of dragoons, whose proper station is in the Indian country.

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Without destroying the military department, as established by a general order of the 12th day of July, 1842, and at the same time preserving the command and the control of the major general, commanding in chief, over the forces of the line, I have reinstated the two geographical divisions of the army. In making this reinstatement I have reserved, as convenient for military purposes, from the command of the generals of geographical divisions, the fourth department, commanded by Brevet Brigadier General Brady, and the ninth, at present commanded in Florida, by Brevet Brigadier General Worth.

The termination of the Florida war and the tranquility which prevails there under the vigilant eye of the officer in command, have led to the withdrawal of most of the troops from that territory. They have generally returned to their former posts and garrisons. I feel assured that the instructions which were issued in conformity to your suggestions, from this department on the 18th day of October last, to the general commanding in Florida, will, without injurious delay, haven the gradual and humane removal of the few Seminoles remaining in that country, so as to secure its people from every apprehension of change in that pacific disposition by which these Indians appear to have been governed since the termination of the war.

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Efficiency and military spirit are much improved by keeping troops in mass. Central depots on healthy sites, whether forts or not, so that they are readily accessible from all points where the service of the tegiment might be required, are the best locations for the barrack of troops. In several of the seacoust fortifications, the plan of defence has excluded, as barracks and quarters for the garrison, separate and exposed buildings; but providing instead thereof, and in the body of the rampart, bomb-proof accommodations, designed to avail for the comfort, health and safety of the troops, under all the circumstances of actual warfare and sieges. Proper and well designed as the easemates no doubt are for these objects, I have nevertheless formed the opinion, from my limited personal observation, that it is advisable, in time of peace, to afford the assembled troops and the hospital barrack, establishments on airy and separate sites, separate from the forts. With this impression upon my mind—an impression which seems to prevail throughout the army—I would be remiss in my duty did I not express the hope that Congress may authorize and appropriate funds for the erection of barracks at the necessary points on the seaboard; care being Itaken that, by their location and construction, they shall not interfere

NEW YORK, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 10, 1845.

service, &c., including also those on leave of absence, and a very few occasionally engaged on some special duty. When regard is paid to the officers thus drawn off, it will be found there is no redundancy; and the technical military term "supernumary" is unjustly applied in our service, where all are attached, and actually engaged upon public duty.

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So long, therefore, as these brevet second lieusenants are actually necessary, and engaged in public service, and whilst it may be deemed the policy of the country ro secure and preserve an amount of military skill and knowledge which might be diffused and employed with advantage and efficacy through a larger army, if oursafety demanded the increase, I trust that public expediency may be so brought to bear upon this subject as to save and continue those young officers in a profession for which they have been well and laboriously educated, and encouraged to enter by the institutions of their country.

What may be the effect of the reduction of the number of cadets appointed agreeably to the provisions of the recent act of Congress of 1st March, 1843, is yet to be discovered. If the consequences of that act, when fairly brought out, shall so diminish the classes of graduates that they will not be equal to the casual annual vacancies in the army would it not be proper to pause, and suspend the adoption of any contemplated measure in relation to the brevet second lieutenants, until it shall be assertained by experience whether that class of young officers will not be gradually reduced, and linally absorbed, by the operation of the present law! I think such will be the ultimate effect, not withstanding it may safely be admitted as a good rule to be established, not to permit the anticipation of more than the probable vacancies in the army in promoting a graduating class. This result may the more safely be relied upon, unless the present admirable system should be departed from, and graduation become a mere form incidental to, and necessarily following, as appointment as cadet. It is only while a high proficiency shall be rigidly exacted from each cadet, that this school will retain its reputation. If, however, a mistaken leniency shall ever be allowed to impair

I do not consider it to be disadvantageous in the military service of a republic to encourage resignations, thereby causing enough vacancies to afford reasonable opportunities of promotion. Advancement in rank is the best stimulant to the zeal of the promising officer. Without discussing the policy of a pension system, such as would arise from a half-pay or retired list, I shall venture the proposition that no army can ever endanger the republic, if its officers, after any term of years of service, again become simply private citizens. Expediency, therefor leads to the encouragement of resignations. This encouragement should be founded in justice to the faithful servant of the public, Twenty-five years' continuous service is enough to exact from any man, and it may be safely assigned as a general limit of the greatest efficiency of an officer. It would also enable him to retire at a time of life when still young enough to enter upon other pursuits; I would, therefore, submit the proposition for the passage of a law entitling an officer after twenty-five years' good and taithful service, to a section of public land, and two years' furlough on full pay, with the condition, should he avail himself of this privilege, that his commission be vacated at the termination of his furlough. The officer thus voluntarily retiring, would carry with

him valuable information into the ranks of civil life, which might be applied to the intruction of the militin, and would always be available upon any emergency requiring the employment of

U. S. Circuit Court.

Jan. 9 — Clark vs. Revence.—The jury in this case already noticed, recorded their vertice as follows.—"The moriguge was given for a past debt, and that debt was not contracted for the support of the family, and so say they all."

U. S. Commissioners.
Jan. 9.—John Saiter and Richard Lusher, sharged with endeavor to create a revolt on board the Hercules, on her sat trip from Odessa, were examined and discharged.

ALBANY, Jan. 7, 1845. Demolished - Movement to

my letter to you of the 3d inst., the barn-burners, headed by Barney Gaffeny, have been routed "horse, foot, and dragoon," by the Croswellites, in the election of all their candidates, which took place at the capitol this morning. Seymour, from

tuguese, Sardauian, Brazilian, &c., making quite a respectable show.

Business is almost at a stand still; the people are hard up for provisions, and from conversations I have held, there appears to be but little prospect of a speedy close to the war.

The U. S. ship Boston sailed for Buenos Ayres 3 days since. Captain Pendergrast, I believe, hasrendered considerable service to our Merchant Marine during his stay off this Port. His ship is in most perfect order and discipline, and is in fact an ornament to our little navy.

The brig is a beauty, and though we do not make much noise, still hold our leads high enough and flatter ourselves that we beat the Frigates Raritan, Congress and United States, (to say nothing of a French Sloop of War,) in a fair race off Rio de Janeiro.

Please report the vessel, officers and crew all

well.

A few of your papers out this way would gladden the hearts of all our "New Yorkers."

I will write when I find any thing of interest to communicate.

Truly yours,

"Quill."

Anti-Renters in the Olden Time.

In looking over "Dunlap's History of New York," I came across the following account of a disturbance on the Rensselaer Manor by the tenants, in 1766, which at this time may be interesting to your readers. One "Pendergast" appears to have been the "Big Thunder" of that day:—

"1766—At different periods mobs assembled upon the eastern part of the manor of Rensselaer. They called at his house and left a message for him, that if he did not appear at their place of rendezveus, they would come to him.

"On the 26th of June, the sheriff of Albany, with 105 men, went to a house on the manor to disperse the noters, of whom there were about 60 On the sheriff's approach to the house, they fired upon him, and shot off his hat and wig without injuring him. Several shots were exchanged, and Mr. Cornelius Tenbrook, of Claverack, was killed, and seven others of the militia wounded.—Three of the rioters were killed, and many wounded; among the latter, Capt. Noble, one of the leaders. They retreated to Noble's house, where they formed a breastwork, and kept their ground until the sheriff and his party left the place. On another day, the rioters, or Pendergast's party, had a skirmish with a party of regulars, with some loss."

Pendergast was subsequently taken, tried in

a skirmish with a party of regulars, with some loss."

Pendergast was subsequently taken, tried in Dutchess county for high treason, and condemned to be executed; and, like the present Big Thunder, became very penitent. Fifty or sixty of his followers were fined, imprisoned or pilloried. It appears there was some difficulty in obtaining a hangman at the time, for I find the following notice appeared: "Any person inclining to assist at the execution of Pendergast, by applying to James Livingston, sheriff of Dutchess county, will meet with a good reward. He shall be so disguised as not to be known, and secured from insult." But before the day of execution arrived, Pendergast was reprieved by Sir Heary Moore, Governor of the province, "until his majesty's pleasure be known." I have been unable to ascertain what became of him afterwards.

Yours, Antiquarian.

Court of Oyer and Terminer.

Before Judge Kent and Aldermen Bunting and Jackson.

Jan. 9.—Murder - Andrew Klem, & wretched looking man, was arraigned for the wilful murder of Catherine Hanlan, by stabbing her on the 331 December last. It will be recollected that Klem was the man who fired the premises of the unfortunate victim of his revenge on the 23d ult., which has been fully reported under our police head. He is a perfectly savage looking man, and pleaded not guilty. His Counsel asked for a postponement of the trial to the next term of the Court (which was granted), and intimated his intention to put in the plea of insanity.

Sentence —William Armstrong, who was found guilty of the murder of James Claudsley on July last, in the 9th Ward, was placed at the bar to receive his sentence.

The Court sentenced the prisoner to three years and nine months to the State Prison.

Monoe Edwards.—Mr. Wittino, the District Attorney, applied on the part of Brown, Brothers & Co., to have the immense expenses which they incurred in prosecuting Monroe Edwards refunded to them.

The Court took in the effidavis and reserved its decision until this forenoon; when the Court adjourned.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD :-

To the Editor of the New York Herald:

The following communication was written for publication in one of our local p pers, but the writer upon further reflection has changed his intention, and now forwards it for publication in your widely circulated journal—the only one in New York that has openly and manfully opposed itself to the torrent of calumny and abuse, with which it has been sought to overwhelm our Bishop and trample him in the dest, in order to gratify the malevolent spirit of party bigotry and personal revenge, and this too for the most shameless reasons—and by men who have openly avowed, that but for their theological differences, the recent proceedings would not have been resorted to. It will be seen, that there are references in the communication to some important facts, to which the public generally are strangers.

Bishop Onderdonk.

The verdict that has been rendered in this case will create no little surprise in the diocese, and must produce a very general feeling of deep sorrow and indignation, that Bishop should be suspended from his office in consequence of the presentation of three charges, relating to occurrences alleged to have been lying here three weeks, and during that time have had a singular variety of weather—one day being calm, bright and warm, the next, cold, with fresh gales and very heavy ground swell, rendering an excursion to the shore any thing but pleasant. In regard to the war now going on here, I have little to say; not much has been done since our arrival. The other day the montevideo gun boats went out and attacked one of the Bockading Squadron, but they returned without a prize, and I have not learned if any thing of moment occurred.

We hear a pleaty of firing, but presume it comes from the outposts.

There is quite a large force of vessels of war anchored near us, consisting of English, French, Portuguese, Sardanian, Brazilian, &c., making quite a respectable show.

with the three who voted for suspension, in order to save him from the immediate sentence of degradation.

Reports are in circulation, from sources entitled to credit, that a like intolerant and persecuting spirit was displayed in the case of Bishop Onderdonk of Pennsylvania—and that nine of the Bishops entered their solemn protest against the whole proceeding on that occasion, as uncanonical, illegal, and unrighteous. The Bishop of Pennsylvania, it will be recollected, offered his resignation to the Diocesan Convention, upon the ground of ill health, and inability to perform his official duties—stating very frankly, in the communication in which he profered his resignation, that his infirmities had compelled him to use stimulants in somewhat large quantities, but never to inebriation, as had been charged. Finding, however, that the Convention were about placing their acceptance of his resignation on other grounds than those upon which he had, distinctly placed it, he at once attempted to withdraw it, and demanded a trial, if other and injurious reports to his reputation were to be made the reasons for accepting his resignation. The onvention, however, decided that the resignation could not be withdrawn, although it had not been acted upon, and proceeded to accept it, without granting his demand for a trial—and the action of the House of Bishops is reported to have been grounded upon these proceedings alone—the sentence of suspension having been passed upon him without even going through the form of a trial!

It must be obvious to all thinking persons, that in an age and in a country when an enlightened public opinion exercises a controlling influence and sway over the minds of men, that it will sever answer for a few men who have been called to preside over the general interests of the numerous and enlightened body composing the Episcopal Church in the United States, to resolve themselves into a secret conclave, after the fashion of that which meets in Rome, and then secretly, and without appeal, depose from t

themselves above and beyond the judgment of those by whom they have been elected to their stations.

The Episcopal church is evidently in a false position, and it its unity is to be preserved, and the church to retain its claim to general respect, its constitution must be so far modified as to prevent a bare majority of its Bishops in secret conclave, from suspending or degrading its high dignitaries, who may thus be sacrified to the vindictive spirit of party, and personal animosity. Since we neither have nor can have any sole executive head, the operation of the qualified veto, as exercised by the head of the civil government, should be secured for the protection of all against whom any extreme sentence may be pronounced, by requiring the assent of two-thirds of their numberto the validity of such sentence.

The diocese of Virginia appears to have performed a double part on this occasion, having acted both as accuser and judge—Bishop Meade officiating as one of the presenters, and his assistant as one of the judges.

There is something so utterly improbable in the stories of the witnesses, in regard to the times and the occasions when the occurrences charged are alleged to have taken place—upon the supposition that any wrong motive influenced the Bishop—and there has been, on the other hand, such a manifest and impertinent interference in this matter, on the part of individuals from other dioceses, in getting up these charges against the accused, that Bishop Onderdonk owes it to himself, to his diocese, and to the whole church, to address his diocese, and to the whole church, to address his diocese on the subject—explain his position—announce his intention of duttifully submitting, in the hope that justice will yet be done him—but at the same time to take the occasion to remove the veil which covers the whole proceedings, and, placing himself upon his character as a man and a christian, to give the truth, and the whole truth, to the world, without tear or favor.

How the fact is to be explained, that such men as Bishops Gadsden, Kemper, Delancy, and others, should have pronounced Bishop Onderdonk innocent, while others, such as Mclivaine, Hopkins and Chase, should not only have pronounced him

siggressor, but in order to save the expense of two separate trizis, and as the evidence in both cases is the same, the parties agreed to try them together. It appeared in evidence that Mrs. Reeder resides at No. 12 Batavia street, and on the 28th March last, and without giving any just cause or provocation, was attacked by Mrs. Burke, and serverely heaten on the face, and while attempting to save her face with her hands, Mrs. Burke sized hold of her thumb with her teeth, and lacerated it so severely that he has not since been able to use it Self-defence is pleaded, and the only question before the jury is who commenced the affay? Verdict for Reeder and wife. 2000 damages, and six cents costs. In the second action judgment for del't. Scoles & Cooper for Reeder and wife. D. Graham, Jr., for Burke and wife.

Eliza B. Jumel vs. Jumes Munroe.—In this cause it appeared that plaintiff is the owner of certain premises aitume in the 12th ward, which she leased to detendant from 6 h April, 1839, to 1st April, 1840, at the yearly rent of \$1000, payable quarterly and in advance; the present action is brought to recover for the half years' rent ending in October, 1830, and also for injury done to various parts of the premises, furniture, &c. For defence eviction was pleaded; also that previous to the commencement of this vite parts of the premises, furniture, &c. For defence eviction was fore any part of the last hall years' rent became due, he was summarily ejected from the premises, and as to the count for damages, the premises, furniture, &c. were left in better repair than when defendant entered into posses sien.

Nelson Chase, for plaintiff, James Humphrey, for de-

rien.

Nelson Chase, for plaintiff, James Humphrey, for de-fendant.

Adjourned over to this forenoon.

Court Calendar—This Day.
CIRCUIT COURT—Nos. 60, 62, 29, 30
COMMON PLRAS—Nos. 65, 7, 39, 65, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 116.
SUPERIOR COURT—No calendar.

THE RIVER AT ST. LOUIS—There is no ice in the river opposite this place. Six feet water is re-ported on the bars to Caire. The river here is within about three feet of low water merk. The river was closed at the f of of the Lower Rapids, and at Warsaw, on the 231, and cossing had commenced on the ice.

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